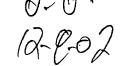


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PATENT

Atty. Docket No. SBC-002CP

(7620/3)



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT(S):

Culliss

CONFIRMATION NO.: 2049

SERIAL NUMBER:

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ART UNIT: 2645

FILING DATE:

April 23, 2001

EXAMINER: A. Hoosain

TITLE:

ANSWERING MACHINE DETECTION FOR VOICE

MESSAGE DELIVERY METHOD AND SYSTEM

RECEIVED

DEC 0 9 2002

Box Non-Fee Amendment Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Technology Center 2600

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed September 5, 2002, in connection with the above-identified patent application, Applicant respectfully submits the following Response.

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated September 5, 2002, claims 1-20 were considered. The Action rejects claims 1 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 4,972,461 issued to Brown et al. and claims 2-13 and 16-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Brown et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,181,779 issued to Hwang. According to the Office Action, claim 14 stands objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.